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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT



SPONSOR: Pinto DATE TYPED: 02/12/02 HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE: Widen US Highway 666 SB SM 31

ANALYST: Valdes

### REVENUE

Estimated Revenue		Subsequent Years Impact	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY02	FY03			
	\$150,000.0		Non-Recurring	State Road Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Revenue Decreases)

Relates to SJM 71

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

State Highway and Transportation Department (SHTD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Memorial 31 requests the New Mexico Congressional delegation seek a federal appropriation of \$150 million to fully widen United States highway 666 (US666) to four lanes between Gallup and the Colorado state line.

#### Significant Issues

US666 is one of the most dangerous highways in the state. When comparing US666 to nine other major highways in the state including US84/285 Santa Fe to Pojoaque and US70 Ruidoso to Riverside, over a five-year period from 1996 through 2000, US666 had the highest number of traffic accidents, which amounted to 674. Over that same period, US666 also had the highest number of people killed (43) and injured (643), when compared to the other nine highways, over a five-year period.

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According to the State Highway and Transportation Department (SHTD), US666 has been widened to four lanes from Gallup to Sheep Springs. Widening the remaining 60 miles of highway between Sheep Springs and the Colorado state line would cost approximately \$80 million.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

In the absence of existing state funding to widen US666, a federal appropriation would allow SHTD to initiate this high priority project.

### **RELATIONSHIP**

Relates to Senate Joint Memorial 71 which requests the State Highway Commission make the widening of US666 a department priority.

### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

The department can initiate necessary right-of-way agreement negotiations with the Navajo Nation and manage the project with existing resources.

MV/ar